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Swimmer stops short of crossing Strait

SAFETY Jen Alexander, the woman who hoped to cross the Northumberland Strait this week, had to call off her swim Monday night.

After 18 hours of swimming, the lightsticks Alexander's boat used to see her failed. The 33-year-old swimmer — who took on the swim to raise awareness about juvenile diabetes — also began to hallucinate. On her blog, Alexander says this is normal for long-distance swimmers, but that hers were huge and frightening.

"While I knew it was the right decision, I got onto the boat and I cried. I could see the lights of shore, and it was awful to have come so close and have to give up," Alexander wrote.

Alexander had made it to New Brunswick and was halfway to Nova Scotia when she stopped swimming at 9:20 p.m. She says she'll try again soon.

RACHEL BOOMER/METRO HALIFAX

Local page 3

Car rentals costly in city

Travel page 13



Sri Lankan celebration

World page 8

Russia orders ceasefire

Olympics

Women take tough loss



Martina Franko clears the ball during Canada's 2-1 loss to Sweden yesterday in a first round match at Workers' Stadium in Beijing. Despite the loss, the Canadians moved on and will square off against the U.S. in a quarter-final match on Friday. More Olympic coverage on pages 9 and 10.

Public hearing set for Waterside development

LINDSAY JONES
lindsay.jones@metronews.ca

The public will soon get to weigh in on Armour Group's proposed Waterside Centre development. Council voted yesterday

to allow the controversial development — which would connect six buildings where Duke, Upper Water and Hollis streets meet — to go to a public hearing.

The proposal also includes saving the buildings' historic facades and build-

ing a six-storey glass office tower above them. The Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia strongly opposes the project.

The public hearing will be held in September at the earliest.

MORE COUNCIL NEWS ON PAGE 3

Local propane plants safe, official says

ROBYN YOUNG
robyn.young@metronews.ca

Nestled up close to a propane dispensing facility in Woodside — literally a stone's throw away — is a small residential neighbourhood made up of a few quaint clapboard homes, a school and a corner store.

Superior Propane moved in about a year ago with two bus-sized tanks.

And next door is the massive Imperial Oil refinery, followed by the equally expansive Esso refinery.

Directly across the street is Irving Propane, right next to the Woodside Community Centre.

Michelle Pepper lives at No. 3 Shirley Street and said yesterday she'd never given much thought to the propane facility next door.

"They're a pretty safe company — they're always checking everything to make sure everything's safe," she said.

She was surprised last weekend to hear about the area of north Toronto that was flattened by a massive propane plant explosion.

The Sunday morning blast rocked the residential neighbourhood, dozens of people were injured, homes destroyed, businesses damaged, glass blown out of windows for almost a two-

kilometre radius and at least two people were killed.

Torontonians have since expressed outrage that the city allowed the plant so close to a residential area.

But across the country — including in Nova Scotia — there are no federal, provincial or municipal regulations guiding the distance between such facilities and residential neighbourhoods.

Dale Stewart, chief inspector of fuel safety for the government of Nova Scotia,

said he has no concerns about the 12 propane facilities in the province.

"We inspect them yearly," he said.

Still, he made a call to Toronto Mon-

day, the day after the blast, to request information from the investigation into the cause.

Deborah Storey, spokeswoman for Halifax Regional Municipality, said there are no specific regulations about where a fuel facility is located, as long as it's in an industrial zone — but that doesn't mean a residential zone can't be right next door.

"Sometimes you see them creeping closer together," she said. "And when you're talking about something like propane — well you know what happened in Toronto."

"When you're talking about something like propane — well you know what happened in Toronto."

Deborah Storey

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466-3388

Penhorn Mall
463-3388

GREENWOOD

Greenwood Mall
936 Central Ave.
760-3399

HALIFAX

201 Chain Lake Dr.
455-3388
5693 Spring Garden Rd.
492-3388

NEW MINAS

County Fair Mall
9256 Commercial St.
681-3388

SACKVILLE

405 Sackville Dr.
865-3388

SYDNEY

484 Grand Lake Rd.
564-9400

TRURO

Truro Mall
893-2288

YARMOUTH

Yarmouth Mall
742-3388



HALIFAX

Rogers Video
16 Denith Rd.
477-8848

ANTIGONISH

Motion Communications
19A James St. Plaza
836-5888

BEDFORD

Excellular Communications
752 Bedford Hwy.
457-1144

BRIDGEWATER

World of Wireless
533 King St.
543-6363

DARTMOUTH

Rogers Video, Cole Harbour
4 Forest Hills Parkway
435-5696

Rogers Video, Woodlawn
114 Woodlawn Rd.
433-0994

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Memory Lane
1 Gorham St.
354-5486

NEW GLASGOW

Motion Communications
60 Archimedes St.
752-5888

PICTOU

Motion Communications
239 West River Rd.
485-5888

SACKVILLE

Rogers Video
857 Sackville Drive
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798-2025

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Your stage dreams can come true

Ever wanted to be on stage? Bedford Players is holding auditions for *Sinners* by Norm Foster, on Sept. 2 and 3 at All Saints Church Hall. The play is about a furniture store owner who has an affair with the local minister's wife. **METRO HALIFAX**

3

Local



How to avoid distemper

Beware the raccoons! As Metro reported last month, the province is getting a record number of calls about raccoons and distemper. To avoid your pet getting distemper from a diseased raccoon, don't feed them, don't feed your pets outdoors and keep pets inside or on a leash.

METRO HALIFAX



Jim Smith of Cheap Tyres answered one call after another yesterday evening of people looking to rent cars. He had to tell them they were out of luck until late next week. Smith says availability of rentals is down this year and the bigger companies are gouging customers as a result.

Rental-car shortage driving up prices

Small-business owner says competition gouging customers

ROBYN YOUNG
robyn.young@metronews.ca

Car rental companies in Halifax are gouging customers, says the owner of a mechanic shop who also rents out a small fleet of vehicles.

And the problem is availability, says Jim Smith, owner of Cheap Tyres on Windmill Road.

"It's (rentals) by the minute," he said yesterday as he answered one telephone rental request after another.

Smith didn't have any of his 30 cars around to show off yesterday, and one that was expected to return by 5 p.m. was on its way out as

Sample prices

To rent a midsize car for the day on Aug. 22, for example, it will cost anywhere from \$125 to \$150, taxes and insurance not included. The following are the prices for that day at some Halifax rental companies:

fax rental companies:

- Budget, \$125.70
- Thrifty, \$139.94
- Dollar, \$140.92
- Hertz, \$147.47
- Avis, \$142.12

soon as it arrived.

He's been hearing from customers that the same is true at other Halifax rental companies.

One employee at Dollar Rent-a-Car didn't want his name published, but said their company and a number of others in the business decreased their fleets this year after poor tourism numbers last year.

He said if they lease too many from the manufacturers, they're stuck with un-used vehicles in the winter when demand is low.

On the flip side, if they lease too few, it drives the prices up when demand is high in the summer.

Sean O'Regan of O'Regan's Car and Truck Rentals, said he hasn't noticed too much of a differ-

ence between supply and demand compared to last summer.

But he was also somewhat surprised at the high rates larger companies like Thrifty, Budget, Hertz, Dollar and Avis are charging.

All five are asking for anywhere from \$125 to \$150 per day for a midsize car.

O'Regan's, which has a fleet of about 86 vehicles, charges \$58.90 (plus tax) per day for a midsize vehicle, and the price doesn't change depending on the day of the week.

Smith of Cheap Tyres, charges even less for a day's rental of a midsize car: \$58.64, tax included.

Judge rejects joint recommendation

GRAHAM NORTH
for Metro Halifax

LONG-TERM OFFENDER An unconvinced Halifax judge postponed the sentencing of Mark Garnet Aylward yesterday to give the Crown and defence some time to reassess their joint recommendation.

Aylward, 42, is a convicted murderer who pleaded guilty to sexual assault with a weapon and uttering threats against a 14-year-old boy in May 2006.

Crown prosecutor Catherine Cogswell and defence attorney Patrick MacEwan jointly recommended a 12-year prison sentence for Aylward, along with a long-term offender designation that would make it difficult for him to be paroled.

"Protection of the public is paramount," Cogswell told Judge Castor Williams in court.

Judge Castor Williams argued that Aylward, who is already serving a life sentence for the murder of Phillip Alan White, cannot be considered a long-term offender. Williams says Aylward's life sentence prevents the 10-year community supervision term that goes along with the designation.

The disagreement stems



Mark Garnet Aylward.

from different interpretations of the Criminal Code.

"With all respect, you make a stretch of the statute," Williams told Cogswell.

Williams pushed the hearing back to September 26, 2008, to allow the attorneys to collect more evidence.

Cogswell said she knows of three previous joint recommendations for long-term offenders, but this has never been an issue.

The judge can still classify Aylward as a long-term offender, a dangerous offender or neither. Regardless of his designation, Aylward will still do time for the attack.

"There has to be a sentence," Cogswell said, noting that Aylward's assault was a "particularly heinous act."

Bible Hill happy to have the blues

FESTIVAL Businesses are still calculating their increased sales thanks to the weekend's Dutch Mason Blues Festival in Bible Hill.

Benny Cavanagh, manager of Cavanagh's in Bible Hill, said the festival brought in a number of new customers. "There were a lot of strange faces, people who aren't regular customers," said Cavanagh.

"Many were buying camping needs ... our sales and traffic were up for sure. It's good for the local economy because if people come for the festival they might come back to the area."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Tomorrow's Metro Food

Metro's Barb Holland cooks up a great recipe to accompany the tasty barbecue ribs on your grill this summer.



Council gives go-ahead to Bayer's Road project

LINDSAY JONES
lindsay.jones@metronews.ca

DEVELOPMENT Council OK'd a developer's application to rezone land on Bayers Road to allow for residential development last night.

Kassner Goodspeed Architects asked the city to rezone the land near the corner of Romans Avenue and the north side of Bayers Road so it can submit a

Peninsula council

• The building proposal will now be presented to the Peninsula community council

for a decision on whether to proceed with a public hearing on the development.

proposal to construct an apartment building up to 16 storeys on the site.

Up until last night, the land was designated as park and institutional.

More than a dozen spoke out at last night's public hearing both for

and against the zoning change.

Some worried that an apartment complex would increase traffic in the area and cause parking woes. They suggested that the city buy the land back and turn into a park space.

They also shared concerns about the proximity of the site to the memorial for unidentified victims of the Halifax Explosion.

Those who support the move said the current state of the land is an eyesore, and leaving it designated as is leaves its future open to uncertainty. They also said changing the by-law could create much-needed housing for seniors, and help to increase the density on the peninsula.

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Watch video reports on the aftermath of the Montreal police shooting that sparked a riot and a reunion between a baby beluga and its grandmother at the Vancouver Aquarium

Play online Crosswords!

The weather's supposed to be fine this weekend, so why not enjoy an outdoor concert? Jazz and blues singer Doris Mason will give a free concert at Rotary Park, on the waterfront near Bishop's Landing, Sunday from 2-4 p.m. **METRO HALIFAX**

News in brief

SEARCH Police are still looking for a man who attempted to steal a purse off a woman's arm as she was returning home early yesterday morning. She described him as average height with a thin build and wearing a dark top and jeans.

CRIME Police are still on the hunt for a 40-something man who robbed the Scotia Bank on Quinpool Road yesterday. The man is described as a 40-year-old Caucasian with short brown hair and stubble on his face.

METRO HALIFAX

Suspect arrested

ROBBERIES Daniel Nowogorski, 29, of no fixed address was arrested yesterday in relation to a slew of robberies committed this summer in Halifax.

Nowogorski was arrested yesterday after an early morning robbery at a north-end Halifax donut shop.

Shortly after 5 a.m., a man wearing a camouflage jacket with a hood pulled over his face entered Robins Donuts on North

Street, threatened the clerk with a syringe and demanded cash.

He fled the store with cash and minutes later, two police officers spotted a man matching that description duck behind a building on Maynard Street. Nowogorski was taken into custody and later charged with the robbery of the donut shop as well as two other robberies.

METRO HALIFAX

\$3M pledged for aboriginals

Funds to boost health care in N.S.

GRAHAM NORTH
for Metro Halifax

Aboriginal people in Nova Scotia can look forward to a boost in health-care services after the federal government pledged more than \$3 million yesterday to address the unique mix of health care needs in First Nations communities.

Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, said the money will help integrate federal and provincial health services to suit the distinct health needs of First Nations Nova Scotians.

Strahl stressed the collaborative effort between governments, health experts and Aboriginal people in identifying the specific needs of their communities, such as midwifery, home care and mental health.

"It really does show what's possible when we work together towards a common goal," said Chief Lawrence Paul, co-chair of the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs.

The announcement suggests sincerity in the feds' pledge to improve the lives of Aboriginal people, following Ottawa's historic apology to former students of the residential schools program in June.

Loraine Etter, Health Technician for the Atlantic Policy Congress, said the funding will go a long way to address Aboriginal people's health needs, particularly in psychiatric services.

Many First Nations people suffer from depression, she said, and cultural differences make it difficult for them to trust unfamiliar professionals.

For example, some Ab-

original people have a tendency to avoid eye contact, she said, which can be perceived by others as deceit when it's merely a cultural difference.

Etter estimates the funding will help train between 30 and 40 community members, such as receptionists at the schools, to help recognize the subtle signs of mental health sufferers and respond appropriately.

"They're trained to notice this stuff . . . so that people are not falling through the cracks," she said.



Minister Chuck Strahl and Chief Lawrence Paul were all smiles yesterday after Ottawa pledged \$3 million to boost health care for First Nations Nova Scotians.

"It really does show what's possible when we work together towards a common goal."

Chief Lawrence Paul

Step closer to new library

JENNIFER TAPLIN
jennifer.taplin@metronews.ca

A small victory yesterday for the proponents of a \$42 million central library: council approved it 'in principle.'

After three hours of debate, council decided to keep the project alive, even though several councillors had problems with the price tag.

Dartmouth Coun. Gloria McCluskey said when the land and underground parking is included, it's more like \$65 million.

"Nine million dollars is a lot of money HRM has to put into the land and that has to be considered," she said.



A new central library was approved in principle by council yesterday. (File photo)

The HRM is hoping to make a swap with the province: the Queen Elizabeth High property for the empty lot on Spring Garden and Queen Street as the site for a new central library.

The 108,740 square-foot proposed building — complete with auditorium and

café — would replace the Spring Garden Road Memorial Library which is falling apart.

It was a make or break it moment for the central library project yesterday.

"The more we put this off the less likely it is to happen and I think we need to show people we're serious," said Connaught-Quinpool Coun. Sheila Fougere.

Downtown Coun. Dawn Sloane agreed, adding council just needs to get this done now. "If you think this is too expensive now, just wait," she warned council.

A central library idea has been approved in principle twice before in the past 11 years.

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6960 Mumford Rd.
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New Minas

County Fair Mall

New Waterford

479 Heelan St.

Port Hawkesbury

20 - 47 Paint St.

Sydney

Mayflower Mall
Halifax Shopping Centre
337 Welton St.

Truro

245 Robie St.

Windsor

Fort Edward Mall

Yarmouth

Yarmouth Mall

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

Grand Falls-Windsor

Exploits Valley Mall

St. John's/Mount Pearl

Avalon Mall
The Village Shopping Centre
5 - 336 Freshwater Rd.
55 Kelsey Dr.
35 Stavanger Dr.

Clareville

Random Square Shopping Mall

Corner Brook

Corner Brook Plaza

NEW BRUNSWICK

Bathurst

Place Bathurst Mall

Edmundston

121 rue de L'Église

Fredericton

Regent Mall
1168 Smythe St.

Miramichi

Bridgeview Plaza

Moncton/Dieppe/Riverview

Champlain Place
Wheeler Park Power Centre
33 Mapleton Rd.
535 Coverdale Rd.
106 - 451 Paul St.

Rothsay

82 Marr Rd.

Saint John

McAllister Place

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ARE YOU ON THE VOTERS LIST?



The Halifax Regional Municipality will be conducting a revisions period for the purpose of updating the List of Electors for the upcoming Municipal and School Board elections to be held on Saturday, October 18, 2008.

The purpose of the revisions period is to update the List of Electors by making corrections and adding or deleting names to ensure that the list is accurate allowing voters the opportunity to exercise their right to vote!

ARE YOU ON THE VOTERS LIST?

What makes me eligible?

You can be added to the voters list if you are: 18 years of age on October 18, 2008, a Canadian citizen, a resident of HRM since July 18, 2008.

Questions to ask...

Have you: recently moved to HRM? turned 18? Have you moved within HRM? Has someone in your household left HRM or passed away? If you answered YES to any of these questions, it's important you contact HRM to make those revisions.

Who do I contact for revisions?



In person (Mon-Fri; 8:30am - 4:30pm; Returning Officer, City Hall, 1841 Argyle St. Halifax)



Phone (Mon-Fri; 8:30am - 4:30pm; 490-8683 (VOTE) toll-free 1-888-820-8683 (VOTE)



Fax 490-4208



Writing in (Returning Officer, PO Box 1749, Halifax, NS B3J 3A5)



E-mail election@halifax.ca

The revisions period will be held from July 28 to August 22, 2008

Persons whose names **do not** appear on the List of Electors and who are eligible to vote will be **required to appear in person to take an affidavit prior to voting.**

For assistance, contact 490-8683 (VOTE) or toll-free at 1-888-820-8683 (VOTE)

Information on voter eligibility and the 2008 Municipal and School Board elections can be found at <http://www.halifax.ca/election>

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT!

Linda Grant
Returning Officer
A125-6912

HALIFAX
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This architectural drawing shows what the proposed Mainland Common training facility will look like.

Council approves sports complex

Many argue facility not up to standards

JENNIFER TAPLIN
jennifertaplin@metronews.ca

With dreams of producing future Olympians, council approved the Mainland Common Centre yesterday.

A spectator joked after the vote that now China has a \$40 billion Olympics and the HRM has a \$40 million sports facility. The federal government announced last week they're kicking in \$12 million along with the province's \$12 million and the HRM's \$13.4 million.

But it didn't make everybody happy.

Kelly Atkins of the Build it Right community group presented a petition with 7,000 names of people who think the facility doesn't meet the needs of the community.

"Without a 50-metre pool, national and international competitions can never, never be held in No-

"Without a 50-metre pool, national and international competitions can never, never be held in Nova Scotia."

Build it Right's Kelly Atkins

va Scotia," Atkins said.

There are two 50-metre pools in the city (Dalplex and Centennial Pool), but Atkins argued they aren't up to competitive standards.

Paul Dunphy, director of community development, said spending the extra cash required to bring it up to international standards means less money for components used every day by the community and athletes.

If the 25-metre pool was pulled and replaced with a

50-metre pool, it would cost \$5 million more.

In his presentation, Mark Smith of Sport Nova Scotia said the time is coming when the HRM will have to look at building a 50-metre pool.

Connaught-Quinpool Coun. Sheila Fougere added an amendment that staff look at developing a 50-metre pool within 20 years.

But there's a much tighter deadline for the Mainland Common Centre since it needs to be up and running for the 2011 Canada Winter games. Construction on the recreation centre will begin in two months, and it is scheduled to open in the fall of 2010.

Jean-Paul Deveau, chair of the 2011 Canada Winter Games Host Society, was "very pleased" with the facility. Three events will be hosted there: badminton, synchronized swimming and artistic gymnastics.

Vaccine drive lauded

HEALTH The province is taking a step in the right direction by reminding new and returning post-secondary students about the importance of being vaccinated for the mumps, says the Liberal party's health critic.

The Department of Health Promotion and Protection has begun running ads in daily newspapers across the province, suggesting that students talk to their family doctor about getting a free MMR (mumps, measles and rubella) vaccination.

Gloucester Bay MLA and Liber-

al health critic Dave Wilson said the new advertising campaign likely indicates the government has gotten the message.

Earlier this year, the provincial government came under fire from the auditor general and opposition politicians for its handling of last year's outbreak and the vaccination program. Following a major outbreak of mumps in February 2007, the province and post-secondary institutions held campus clinics to offer free vaccinations.

THE CAPE BRETON POST

News in brief

CRIME James George Peter Falt, charged in a series of recent armed robberies, appeared in provincial court but entered no pleas. Defence attorney Steve Robertson said disclosure is still coming in on the offences that occurred recently. Falt, 22, of Westville faces seven charges in connection with the armed robberies of several businesses.

CORRECTION In a photo spread in yesterday's Learning Curve, a rug was misidentified. The correct name is the Angela Adams Dandelion Cotton area rug, and it retails for \$59 at Home Depot. Metro regrets the error.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Tory agent speaks up about election spending

The official agent for a failed Conservative candidate in a Toronto riding, Douglas Lowry, testified yesterday his party frowned on him appearing before a parliamentary committee investigating Tory election spending — and even offered him talking points when he insisted on showing up. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

7

Canada

"My comment was not meant to be gender-specific"

Liberal MP Robert Thibault has apologized for suggesting LeBreton go back to "making tea" for Brian Mulroney.



Cup of tea?

Robert Thibault and Marjory LeBreton became engaged in a war of words over several issues including who the Tories have chosen to run against Thibault in the next election. **SOURCE: CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Mayor says hands are tied

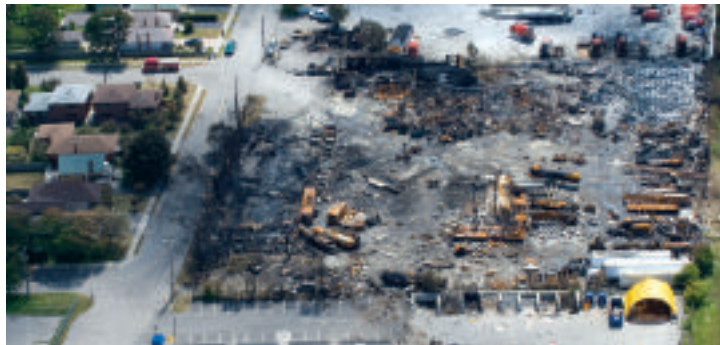
Toronto families affected by blast can't return home

Worried their houses might be severely damaged, still unable to feed the pets or grab the medication they left behind in their haste, citizens expressed frustration with Toronto city officials, who provided no information about when they might be able to go back after the massive propane explosion that rocked their neighbourhood earlier this week.

"When Fire Services is able to give an update, they will," Mayor David Miller said, and sympathized that there was nothing he could do.

While some families were being allowed back into the area, some were still left out in the cold.

People who live in about



The scarred earth following the fire at a propane company's facility in Toronto.

70 homes in the immediate vicinity of the Murray Rd. blast site were forced to wait further

Johnny Gabrielli, who lives less than 100 metres from the blast site was de-

nied entry into his neighbourhood.

"We're getting more information from our neighbours than we're getting from anyone else," he said.

"I'm frustrated. I want to

see my home. I want to see my home. I want to get some stuff. I don't want to go spending thousands of dollars when I don't have to."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

90th Canadian soldier receives ramp ceremony

KANDAHAR Hundreds of soldiers lined up along the tarmac at Kandahar Airport second time in two days yesterday to pay their respects to a killed comrade.

And once Master Cpl. Erin Doyle's body arrives on Canadian soil today in Trenton, Ont., he could be arriving in Legal, 50 km north of Edmonton, tomorrow for grieving

family as they start preparing for funeral services, said military spokesman Second Lt. Wright Eruebi.

The Edmonton-based trooper was protecting the outpost when it was attacked with rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire. Doyle is the 90th Canadian soldier killed since the mission began. **METRO CANADA**



Erin Doyle

News in brief

INJURED SOLDIERS Proposed limits on how long wounded Canadian soldiers can serve in a special unit for the injured are unfair to those who have risked their lives for their country, advocates for the disabled announced yesterday.

MONTREAL RIOTS Quebec authorities yesterday promised an investigation into the shooting of an 18-year-old by Montreal police that has sparked city wide riots and had the police chief and mayor appealing for calm. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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World/Business

Peace plan accepted

Russia, Georgia agree in principle to EU-brokered deal

Georgia and Russia agreed in principle to an EU-brokered peace plan over South Ossetia yesterday as the U.S. showed disapproval of Moscow's attacks on its neighbour by cancelling a joint naval exercise.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy and his Georgian counterpart Mikheil Saakashvili agreed late on Tuesday to a modified version of a six-point peace plan endorsed by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

"It is a political document. It is an agreement of principles...and I think we have full coincidence of principles," Saakashvili told a joint news conference with Sarkozy.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Moscow's military operations in Georgia had jeopardized

Victims

- Russia says 1,600 South Ossetian civilians have been killed in the fighting.
- Georgia has reported close to 200 killed.

disrupted Russia's integration into international institutions. "There are any number of opportunities for Russia to reverse course and to demonstrate that it is trying to behave according to 21st century principles," she said.

In its first concrete action of protest, the United States earlier cancelled a Pacific Ocean naval exercise set for next week involving Russia, Britain and France.

Earlier on Tuesday Medvedev ordered a halt to military operations in Georgia ahead of Sarkozy's arrival

REUTERS



A demonstrator holds a poster depicting Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin in the uniform of a revolutionary soldier during a rally in Tbilisi yesterday backing President Mikheil Saakashvili.

Al Qaeda leader killed in Pakistan

CLASHES Senior Al Qaeda commander Abu Saeed al-Masri was killed in recent clashes with Pakistani forces near the Afghan border, a security official said yesterday.

Television channels identified the dead man as Mustafa Abu al-Yazid and said he was also known as Abu Saeed al-Masri.

Yazid, commander of al Qaeda operations in Afghanistan, was an Egyptian who served time in jail with al Qaeda deputy leader Ayman al-Zawahiri after the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

He has been referred to as al Qaeda's third most senior figure, after the elimination or capture of five earlier occupants of the number three spot since 2001. The September 11 Commission described Yazid as the network's "chief financial manager." The Bajaur tribal region where Al-Masri, which means "the Egyptian," was killed is a known sanctuary for al Qaeda operatives on the Afghan border.

REUTERS

Palestinians reject proposal by Israeli PM

CAPITAL Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has rejected an Israeli peace proposal because it does not provide for a contiguous Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, Abbas's office said yesterday. Nabil Abu Rdnainah, Abbas's spokesman, said Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's plan showed a "lack of seriousness."

Olmert's proposal does not offer a solution to competing claims to the holy city of Jerusalem, and would only be implemented once Abbas reined in militants and re-established control of the Gaza Strip, which Hamas seized a year ago.

Under the proposal, Israel would give the Palestinians some 92.7 per cent of the occupied West Bank, plus all of the Gaza Strip, according to officials.

In exchange for West Bank land that Israel would keep, Olmert proposed a 5.3 per cent land swap giving the Palestinians a desert territory adjacent to the Gaza Strip. Olmert's proposal first emerged several months ago and was published in detail yesterday by Israel's left-leaning Haaretz newspaper.

REUTERS

Drug gang turns to kidnapping

MEXICO An unintended consequence of Mexican efforts to weaken drug gangs, drug traffickers around Tijuana, Mexico, are turning to abducting U.S. citizens and residents in southern California and holding them in Mexico as a new way to get funds, authorities say.

Mexican intelligence officials say around 30 Americans abducted in southern California and taken to Tijuana since last November.

More than 200 people have been kidnapped in Baja California state so far this year, a third more than in all of 2007.

REUTERS

Business

Smuggling settlement leads to Rothmans loss

TOBACCO Rothmans Inc., which is being bought by Philip Morris International, reported a first-quarter loss, hurt by expenses after it admitted to helping to tobacco smuggling.

Canada's No. 2 cigarette maker said yesterday it lost \$354.4 million, or \$5.20 a share, compared with a profit of \$33.8 million, or 49 cents a share, a year earlier. Rothmans said its profit was hit by expenses relating to a settlement involving its unit Rothmans Benson & Hedges Inc., which in late July admitted to aiding the contraband tobacco trade.

The police investigation

Contraband

- Imperial Tobacco Canada Ltd. also admitted it aided the contraband tobacco trade. Together, the fines and settlement costs totalled more than \$1 billion.

relates to the years 1989 through 1996, the company said, when tobacco was exported from Canada to the United States and then smuggled back into Canada to avoid high taxes.

Under terms of the settlement, Rothmans said it will pay a total of \$550 million this year and over the next 10 years.

REUTERS

THE DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ

Shares for debt:

MedMira Inc. wants to enter into an arrangement for a settlement of shares for debt with YA Global Investments LP. MedMira has already submitted a draw down notice for \$104,650 to YA Global Investments against its equity line of credit. Under the terms negotiated in the debenture agreement of May 23, 2008, YA Global Investments will purchase common shares from MedMira at a price to be calculated based on 96.5 per cent of the daily volume weighted average price over a 10 day pricing period from Aug. 12 through Aug. 25.

Casinos earnings up:

Quarterly results for casinos in Halifax and Sydney show that the two casinos took in less revenue, but

doubled their earnings. Revenues dropped from \$11.7 million in 2007 to \$11.6 million this year. However, earnings were up to \$3.1 million this year, against \$1.5 million last year. Casino owners Great Canadian Gaming Corp. said cuts to the number of slot machines and the amount of play space helped boost the bottom line.

Groundwater treatment:

The Sydney Tar Ponds Agency announced that Hazco Environmental Services will build underground cut-off walls at the Coke Owens site. The walls are the first steps to collect, control and treat groundwater at the site. The project, expected to get underway in September, will take about three months and cost about \$800,000.

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Diving

Canada's Meaghan Benfeito and Roseline Filion placed seventh yesterday in the women's synchronized 10-metre platform. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Beijing Games

EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONWS.CA

Close calls for Canada

Kayaker Ford, weightlifter Girard finish just off podiums in Beijing

Even at 41 and with a fifth Olympic appearance now in the books, white-water kayaker David Ford couldn't bring himself to utter the "r" word.

Sure, Ford's the oldest guy in his sport at age 41. The average age of the medal winners in Beijing yesterday in the men's K-1 slalom event was just under 25 years.

And after finishing sixth in the event, Ford certainly didn't sound like someone who's going to be retiring anytime soon. In fact, don't be surprised if you see the former world champion coming back for one more crack at an Olympic medal in four years time in London.

"It's not unrealistic to think I'm capable of doing another one," said the Edmonton native, whose best Olympic result is a fourth at the 2004 Athens Games. "We've already kind of determined that. There's no reason that in four years I'll be any less fit or strong as I am now."

Ford's strong showing got Canada — which is still without a medal in Beijing — closer to the podium, but not as tantalizingly close as Christine Girard.

Girard, the 23-year-old weightlifter from Rouyn-Noranda, Que., had equaled a personal best



David Ford of Edmonton races during the final of the men's K-1 slalom event yesterday at the Beijing Olympics.

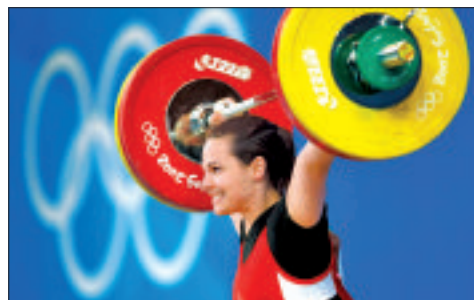
and was in position to grab a bronze medal in the women's 63-kilogram division.

But everything was out of her control, hanging on the bar, along with 135 kilos, as North Korea's Hyon Suk Pak attempted her third and final lift of a load that represented more than twice her body weight. It was simple: Clean and jerk the required amount and Pak would win the gold medal, bumping the Canadian to fourth place.

Fail and Pak would be out of the medals and Canada, thanks to this confident daughter of a weightlifting family, would finally be in.

"I think it was more stressful than when I was doing my lifts," said Girard, who watched on television in the warm-up room and saw Pak struggle and wobble, but successfully hoist the load, winning herself a gold medal and knocking the Canadian off the podium.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Christine Girard of Rouyn-Noranda, Que., competes en route to a fourth-place finish in the women's 63-kilogram weightlifting competition yesterday at the Beijing Games

Phelps breaks golden record

SWIMMING American Michael Phelps became the most successful Olympian of all time when he won his 10th and 11th gold medals early this morning and his fourth and fifth of the Beijing Games.

Phelps broke his own world record to continue his dominance in the Water Cube pool and overtake an elite group including Mark Spitz and Carl Lewis who had won nine golds.

The 23-year-old showed little apparent emotion after winning the men's 200 metre butterfly in 1:52.03, knocking six hundredths of a second off his world record.

About an hour later, the United States won the men's 4x200 metre freestyle relay in world record time, earning Phelps his 11th gold.

Russia won the silver, Australia the bronze and the Canada team of Brian Johns of Richmond, B.C.; Brent Hayden of Mission, B.C.; Colin Russell of Burlington, Ont.; and Andrew Hurd of Oakville, Ont., placed fifth.

Each of Phelps' five medals in Beijing have come in world best times and he is now over halfway to surpassing Spitz's record of seven golds in one games.

In other action in the pool this morning:

- Calgary's Mike Brown swam the second best time in the 200 metre breaststroke semifinals and broke the Canadian record en route to a berth in the final.

- Julia Wilkinson of Stratford, Ont., finished seventh in the 200 metre individual medley final. Stephanie Rice of Australia won gold ahead of Zimbabwe's Kirsty Coventry and Natalie Coughlin of the United States.

- Hayden finished sixth in his men's 100 metre freestyle semifinal heat and failed to qualify for the final.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

2 more athletes accused of doping

DOPING Bulgaria said it had sent home its men's volleyball captain for further tests after pre-Olympic doping controls showed he was close to anti-doping limits.

Plamen Konstantinov faces further tests back home in Sofia, the volleyball federation said.

A Taiwanese baseball player tested positive for a banned substance in checks conducted before the games started, Taiwan's Central News Agency reported. Chang Tai-Shan will not start in Taiwan's opening game if he fails a second test, it said.

Williams sisters turn on the power

TENNIS American sisters Serena and Venus Williams powered on towards a likely gold medal showdown with easy second-round wins in the Olympic singles yesterday.

Serena needed just 44 minutes to blow away Australian Samantha Stosur 6-2, 6-0 on day three of the tennis tournament.

Shortly afterwards, Venus swept past Czech Iveta Benesova 6-1, 6-4.

U.S. Dream Team breezes to victory

BASKETBALL The United States men's team flexed its muscles once again yesterday, routing Angola 97-76 in Group D action in Beijing.

Dwyane Wade led the Americans with 19 points.

The U.S., who overpowered the Angolans 64-26 in the paint, will play Greece next tomorrow.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports in brief

SAILING Oliver Bone, who sailed out of Halifax, and his partner Stephane Locas of St-Eustache, Que., struggled yesterday in 470-class Olympic sailing. Bone and Locas sit in 28th place after four races. Australian pair Nathan Wilmot and Malcolm Page lead.

SAILING Lisa Ross of Lunenburg is 24th overall in Olympic laser radial racing after finishing 16th and 23rd in two races in Beijing. American racer Anna Tunnicliffe sits in first place after finishing fourth and fifth.

METRO HALIFAX



Michael Phelps of the United States poses with the gold medal he won in the men's 200 metre butterfly early this morning at the National Aquatics Center at the Beijing Games.



Led by double world all-round champion Yang Wei, left, China won gold in the men's team gymnastics event yesterday in Beijing. Japan won silver and the U.S. took bronze. China, a traditional powerhouse in this event, failed to get a team medal in Athens. **REUTERS**

Beijing Games

China put another face to child singer

CEREMONY A pretty girl who shot to fame at China's Olympic opening ceremony was a photogenic front for the real singer, who was rejected appearance-wise in the "national interest," Chinese media reported yesterday.

Nine-year-old Lin Miaoke has been celebrated across China as the angelic voice with the cute face who sang Ode to the Motherland at Friday's opening extravaganza.

But a director of the opening ceremony, Chen Qigang, told state TV Lin's voice was overdubbed by the singing of the real child singer Yang Peiyi, said the government-run China News Service.

Cheerleaders used to fill seats

ATTENDANCE Beijing Games organizers are using hundreds of yellow-clad cheerleaders to fill empty seats in several venues despite having sold all Olympic competition tickets.

Many preliminary events have taken place in front of nearly empty stands and organizers, concerned with the television images, brought in volunteers to improve the atmosphere, Games executive vice-president Wang Wei said yesterday.

Organizers have said all seven million plus tickets have been sold, adding many sponsors tickets had not been used in the early rounds of competition.

REUTERS

Sports in brief

WEIGHTLIFTING China's Liao Hui won the Olympic gold in the 69-kg class yesterday. Liao snatched 158 kg and lifted 190 kg in the clean and jerk. He won with a combined total of 348 kg. Vencelas Dabayantiencheu from France won silver and Tigran Martirosyan of Armenia took the bronze.

EQUESTRIAN Germany won the Olympic gold medal in the team three-day eventing yesterday. Australia won the silver and Britain the bronze. Germany had led after the cross-country section on Monday, and Australia took top spot in the opening dressage event. The Canadian team placed ninth overall.

EQUESTRIAN Hinrich Romeike of Germany won the Olympic gold medal in the eventing final yesterday in Beijing. Gina Miles of United States won the silver and Kristina Cook of Britain the bronze.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Enjoy softball while it lasts

Canada off to strong start in sport set to be dropped from Games

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca



So much has been so conspicuously absent at the Beijing Olympics — a Canadian medal, clean air and Brian Williams, for starters — that it's been extraordinarily difficult to muster up excessive enthusiasm so far.

Unless you dig Michael Phelps. Or smog. Or unless you live in countries such as Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan — all of which, unlike Canada, have collected medals, and all of which I truthfully didn't know existed on this planet until this week.

Me? I prefer traditional team sports and found myself entertained while watching the Canadian women's softball team defeat Chinese-Taipei 6-1 in its Olympic opener.

My conclusion: This is a

formidable team, laden with capable hitters and talented pitchers. The pitchers include left-hander **Lauren Bay-Regula**, sister of Boston Red Sox star **Jason Bay**, and **Danielle Lawrie**, sister of the Milwaukee Brewers' top draft pick in June, **Brett Lawrie**.

This Canadian team has 11 first-rate newcomers, plays exciting ball and has a genuine shot at a medal. It might even give the United States — perennial kingpins (queenpins?) in

women's softball — a run.

What a future Canada has at the Olympics in women's softball. That is, if the Olympics' future included women's softball. These, though, are the final innings for women's softball at the Games because, believe it or not, the nitwits in charge have chosen to dump the sport.

In 2005, the IOC — which has made incompetence a bad habit — deemed it necessary to reduce the number of sports at the summer Olympics by two and chose softball and baseball. They are the first sports dropped since polo in 1936.

I understand the need to eliminate baseball. MLB has refused to halt its season for the Olympics, instead staging its own event — the World Base-

Still hope for softball?

• Women's softball is out for the London Olympics in 2012 and is appealing to return for the 2016 Olympics in Tokyo, Madrid, Chicago or Rio de

Janiero. But generally perceived as stronger candidates for 2016 inclusion are golf, rugby, karate, squash and roller sports.

ball Classic — to profit from an event similar to tournaments basketball and ice hockey stage at the Olympics. That and steroid issues surrounding stars in MLB gave the American pastime a black eye.

But women's softball? More than 130 countries are members of the International Softball Federation, and the sport has never been more competitive, with China, Korea, Australia, Japan and Canada threatening U.S. supremacy.

Canada intends to go down swinging.

"This is by far the best team we've had since I've been around," said Bay-Regula, a 27-year-old British Columbian who's in her second Olympics. "We have a legitimate shot at the podium."

The final gold-medal game in Olympic softball history, by the way, will be played Aug. 21. What a shame.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

Canadian women stumble into showdown

It's love or it's hate or it's something in between. However you want to cut it, the Olympic women's soccer quarter-final between Canada and the United States will be an emotion-filled affair that's got David and Goliath written all over it.

"I'm so excited to play the States, we hate each other," said Ancaster's Melissa Tancredi, who scored Canada's goal in a 2-1 loss to Sweden yesterday that set up the quarter-final date with the Americans. "That's pretty much it; it's a great rivalry, it's going to be a great game and it's the Olympics, so it just raises the bar that much more."

And then, ever mindful of bulletin board material (as if any team needs any more motivation than a chance for an Olympic medal), Tancredi wanted to get the words back.

"Don't write that, that's a lie, we love each other," she said. "No, it's a big rivalry, obviously. We play each other so often, we know everything about each other, so it's going to be a little catty, but it's always a great game in the end."

The Friday date (7 a.m. Halifax time) in Shanghai — the winner plays China or Japan in a Beijing semifinal on Monday — was finalized when Canada dropped its final preliminary round game to Sweden in front of more than 45,000 fans at the Beijing



Sweden's Frida Ostberg battles for the ball with Canada's Christine Sinclair yesterday during their preliminary round match at the Beijing Games. The Swedes won 2-1.

Workers' Stadium.

With a 1-1-1 record in its group, Canada finished behind China and Sweden and was one of two third-place teams to gain quarter-final berths. Germany faces Sweden and Norway plays Brazil on the other side of the quarter-final bracket.

Canada-U.S. is full of intrigue even if Canada goes

in as a decided underdog against the powerful Americans, who won their Beijing group with a 2-1 record. Before a tie last April in the CONCACAF Olympic qualification tournament, Canada had lost 10 in a row to the Americans and were beaten by them earlier this summer at the Peace Queen Cup tourna-

ment in South Korea.

"You become rivals, especially with how much we play them," Canada's Rhian Wilkerson said. "Since I've been on the team, we haven't beaten or tied the States, so it's always a match I look forward to because 'this is it' every time. And this is it; it's time."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Medal count

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
#1	U.S.	7	7	8	22
#2	China	13	3	4	20
#3	South Korea	5	6	1	12
#4	Australia	3	2	5	10
#5	Italy	3	4	2	9
#6	Russia	2	4	3	9
#7	France	0	7	2	9
#8	North Korea	1	2	4	7
#9	Germany	4	1	1	6
#10	Japan	3	1	2	6
#11	Britain	2	1	3	6
#12	Netherlands	1	1	2	4
#13	Azerbaijan	1	2	0	3
#14	Brazil	0	0	3	3
#15	Czech Rep.	2	0	0	2
#16	Slovakia	1	1	0	2
#17	Finland	1	0	1	2
#18	Romania	1	0	1	2
#19	Spain	1	0	1	2
#20	Zimbabwe	0	2	0	2
#21	Austria	0	1	1	2
#22	Cuba	0	1	1	2
#23	Kazakhstan	0	1	1	2
#24	Armenia	0	0	2	2
#25	Indonesia	0	0	2	2
#26	Taiwan	0	0	2	2
#27	India	1	0	0	1
#28	Thailand	1	0	0	1
#29	Colombia	0	1	0	1
#30	Hungary	0	1	0	1
#31	Norway	0	1	0	1
#32	Sweden	0	1	0	1
#33	Turkey	0	1	0	1
#34	Vietnam	0	1	0	1
#35	Algeria	0	0	1	1
#36	Argentina	0	0	1	1
#37	Belarus	0	0	1	1
#38	Croatia	0	0	1	1
#39	Georgia	0	0	1	1
#40	Kyrgyzstan	0	0	1	1
#41	Mexico	0	0	1	1
#42	Switzerland	0	0	1	1
#43	Tajikistan	0	0	1	1
#44	Togo	0	0	1	1
#45	Ukraine	0	0	1	1
#46	Uzbekistan	0	0	1	1
	Canada	0	0	0	0

(Count at the end of Day 4)

Neck injury forces Safin to withdraw from match

Marat Safin's U.S. Open preparations suffered a setback when the former No. 1 was forced to retire from his first round match at the ATP event in Washington with a neck injury yesterday. The Russian lost the first set against Italian Fabio Fognini 7-5 and then decided to withdraw. **REUTERS**

11

Sports



Indians send Byrd flying to Boston

The Cleveland Indians traded pitcher Paul Byrd, left, to the Boston Red Sox in exchange for a player to be named later or cash considerations yesterday. Byrd, 37, was 7-10 with a 4.53 earned run average in 22 starts with Cleveland this season, but the right-hander has gone 4-0 with a 1.24 ERA in four starts since the All-Star break. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONWS.CA

No golf till '09: Woods

Tiger Woods has said he will be unable to swing a golf club until next year as he recovers from reconstructive knee surgery.

The American world number one decided to have surgery on his left knee for a fourth time after winning the U.S. Open in mid-June, ending his 2008 PGA Tour campaign.

"As far as swinging a club, that's not going to happen until next year," Woods said in his monthly newsletter on Tuesday. "I just don't have a choice."

"We simply don't know what type of swelling there would be or if there would be any residual effects the next day once you start wheeling and dealing on the knee. Everyone's body reacts differently. I could putt right now but I'm not going to do it."

Woods, a winner of 14 major titles, underwent an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) reconstruction of his left knee. He had torn his knee ligament after last year's British Open at Carnoustie while running and took 10 weeks off at the end of the 2007 season.

He took a further two months off after having arthroscopic surgery two days after the



Masters in April and did not play competitively until the June 12-15 U.S. Open.

"I don't know what the doctors are going to tell me about playing golf down the road," the 32-year-old added. "I'm taking it day-to-day, week-to-week. All I'm doing every day is looking forward to my next day."

Woods said his rehabilitation was going well, despite an initial weight loss.

"I'm a lot more mobile, which is really nice," he added. "The big thing is I've started my rehab and can ride the (exercise) bike. I can't ride it hard - just motion - but am getting in two or three sessions a day."

"Initially, I probably lost about 10 pounds because I

wasn't working out. All of that was muscle. I've put about two pounds back on, but I'm still pretty light. I'm eating mostly raw and organic foods that provide the most nutrients."

While spending quality time at home with his Swedish wife Elin and young daughter Sam Alexis, Woods has been watching television coverage of the Olympic Games.

He also watched last week's U.S. PGA Championship at Oakland Hills where Ireland's Padraig Harrington won his second successive major title.

"I want to congratulate Padraig Harrington on his wins at the British (Open) and PGA," said Woods, PGA champion in 1999, 2000, 2006 and 2007.

"As a two-time defending PGA champion, it was a lot more frustrating not to be competing and that hurts the most." **REUTERS**

Tigers sign Garcia to minors deal

MLB The Detroit Tigers signed free-agent pitcher Freddy Garcia to a minor league contract yesterday that runs through the rest of this season.

Garcia, 33, is coming off right shoulder surgery that cut his 2007 season with the Phillies short. In his only campaign in Philadelphia after being acquired in an offseason deal with the White Sox, Garcia went 1-5 with a 5.90 earned run average in only 11 starts.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports in brief

NBA Los Angeles Clippers guard Dan Dickau has signed with Euroleague team Avellino, the club announced yesterday. Dickau, 29, averaged 5.3 points and 2.6 assists in 67 games last season.

NFL The Miami Dolphins have released kicker Jay Feely, who spent just one season with the club, and will turn the duties over to rookie free agent Dan Carpenter.

MLB The Boston Red Sox officially put pitcher Tim Wakefield on the 15-day disabled list yesterday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Iguodala, 76ers have a deal: Reports

NBA According to a report, the Philadelphia 76ers and restricted free agent forward Andre Iguodala have agreed to a new contract.

ESPN.com is claiming that the two parties have come to an agreement that would pay the 24-year-old \$80 million over six years. However, minor details are still being worked out and nothing has been signed.

A former first-round selection, Iguodala averaged 19.9 points and 5.4 rebounds in 82 games last season.

Iguodala was the ninth overall selection in the 2004 NBA Draft. He played two seasons at Arizona and was an All-Pac 10 honoree during his sophomore



Andre Iguodala has reportedly signed a six-year deal to stay in Philadelphia with the 76ers.

campaign when he averaged 12.9 points, 8.4 boards and 4.9 assists per game.

The Sixers recently signed former Clippers big man Elton Brand to an esti-

mated \$82 million free-agent contract.

Point guard Andre Miller, center Samuel Dalembert, and promising bench players like Thaddeus Young and Louis Williams make the Sixers an emergent force in the East.

If the Sixers had not been able to sign Iguodala, the 24-year-old could have played this season for them after signing a qualifying offer, which would have made him an unrestricted free agent next summer. In that scenario, the Sixers could have lost their most exciting young star without any compensation.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Islanders name AHL's Gordan as new coach

NHL The New York Islanders have named reigning AHL coach of the year Scott Gordon head coach, making him the 14th head coach in franchise history. He has agreed to a multi-year contract with the team.

"Garth has given me an unbelievable opportunity to coach in the NHL with the Islanders," said Gordon. "From my time coach-

ing in Providence, I've seen firsthand the talented young players in this organization. I look at the direction and the vision for this team and see a bright future."

Gordon, 45, led the Providence Bruins to an AHL-best 55-18-3 record last season and guided the team to a 221-141-20-27 record in five-plus seasons.

"Scott has been one of

the top up-and-coming coaches in hockey with good reason," said Islanders general manager Garth Snow. "Through his work in the minor leagues and most recently with Providence over the last eight years, he has gained an impeccable reputation. The entire Islanders organization looks forward to working with Scott."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Toronto Blue Jays starting pitcher A.J. Burnett helped lead the Blue Jays to a 6-4 win over the Tigers last night.

Jays comeback to take down Tigers

Blue Jays 6 Athletics 4

MLB Adam Lind hit a solo home run and Vernon Wells had a two-run double to cap a four-run seventh inning, as the Toronto Blue Jays battled back to beat the struggling Detroit Tigers, 6-4, last night in the second of a four-game test.

Joe Inglett and Marco Scutaro both drove in runs for the Blue Jays, who have won the first two of this series after dropping three straight to the Indians.

A.J. Burnett (15-9) won his fifth straight start after going six innings and yielding four runs on eight hits while fanning six and walking one. B.J. Ryan earned his 23rd save with a perfect ninth.

Gary Sheffield hit a pair of solo shots, his 36th career multi-homer game, for the Tigers, who have dropped nine of their last 12 games. Magglio Ordonez chipped in a solo blast in defeat to run his hitting streak to 11 games. Carlos Guillen went 0-for-4 before exiting before the top of the eighth with left lower back tightness.

Zach Miner lasted six innings and gave up one run on five hits while matching a career-high with five strikeouts. Joel Zumaya (0-

2) was saddled with the loss after giving up two runs in the seventh without registering an out.

Toronto started its rally in the seventh off Bobby Seay. Lind singled, and after Lyle Overbay was caught looking, John McDonald clubbed a double to left. Inglett then grounded out, which scored Lind, moved McDonald to third, and chased Seay in favor of Zumaya.

Scutaro welcomed Zumaya to the game with an RBI single and Alex Rios walked. Wells put the Jays on top with a two-run double before Matt Stairs and Rod Barajas walked. Kyle Farnsworth was then summoned from the 'pen and got Lind to fly out to end the threat, but the damage had been done, as the Jays led 5-4.

Toronto tacked on another run in the ninth as Rios led off with a double. Wells then flied out, but Stairs was intentionally walked. Rios then stole third and Stairs advanced to second, before a wild pitch sent both runners moving. Rios was out at home but pinch-runner Kevin Mench was safe at third. Barajas walked before a Lind single scored Mench.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Yesterday's scheduled game between Halifax and Truro in the Nova Scotia Senior baseball League ended up being rained out. A makeup date hasn't yet been scheduled. **METRO HALIFAX**

Hollett eager for his MMA return

Serious knee injury forces up-and-coming star to regroup and undergo months of rehab

DEREK LEBLANC
for Metro Halifax

It has been almost 10 months since Roger Hollett last stepped into a cage, but he is eager to get back in the ring.

The Halifax fighter blew out his knee, tearing his ACL, MCL, and meniscus, last October at Extreme Cage Combat 7. The battle against Lew Polley and resulted in his only loss in his career.

At the time, he was considered one of the fastest rising mixed martial arts fighters in Canada and one of the most popular athletes in Nova Scotia. He had won his first seven fights, all in the first round and claimed the ECC and Maximun Fighting Championship's light heavyweight title in that time span.

After his painful loss though, he required surgery to repair the damage and that couldn't happen until February.

"There was so much swelling that the doctors had to wait for it to go down," explained Hollett.

"If they didn't it would



Mixed martial arts star Roger Hollett, centre, is set to get back in the ring after suffering a serious injury in October of last year. Hollett's return fight is scheduled for September 20 at Extreme Cage Combat 8.

have blown up twice as much. So the doctors played it safe. I have been doing a full workout now for two months. It feels really good. I feel 100 per cent confident."

After a successful surgery and months of physio-

therapy, Hollett has been cleared to fight again. He will make his return on September 20 at ECC 8.

"I'm feeling good. I'm feeling a 110 per cent," said Hollett.

"It's been six months since I had the surgery. We

got everything planned for September 20. They say it's a six-month healing process and I feel like I've been ready for a month."

Even while he was on the shelf Hollett was keeping himself busy in the business.

Maximun Fighting Championship President and CEO Mark Pavilich has signed him to a new five fight deal. He is expected to make his return there November 26 at MFC 19. A possible opponent for that event is rumoured to be

former UFC veteran David Heath, who also recently signed a multi-fight deal with the organization.

Besides his new deal, Hollett also helped coach teammates from Titans Gym for upcoming fights and got his brown belt in jiu-jitsu from his trainer Peter Martell. Despite all this though Hollett says he will not be trying anything new with his fight game.

"My mobility has been getting better," he said. "I'm still a little slow on my left with my southpaw, but everything should be 100 per cent come September. I feel that it is at about 95 per cent right now."

No opponent has been named for ECC 8's main event against Hollett, but everything seems to be set around him, with the event possibly being named Return of the Hulk.

"We feel he is going to be at 100 per cent when he steps back in," said Peter Martell, ECC promoter and Hollett's jiu-jitsu Trainer.

"I feel that even at 70 per cent, he is going to beat anyone at 100 per cent. We got a couple of guys in mind who he will fight."



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Canada downs Switzerland

HOCKEY Canada's National Men's Summer Under-18 team kicked off the 2008 Memorial of Ivan Hlinka tournament off on a strong note, downing Switzerland 5-3 yesterday.

The game-winning goal came midway through the third period when Saska-

toon player Brayden Schenn set up his WHL teammate Scott Glennie to beat Swiss goalie Benjamin Konz.

It was Canada's third powerplay goal of the game.

METRO HALIFAX

SCOREBOARD

MLB					WEST DIVISION					St. Louis at Florida, 8:10					
AMERICAN LEAGUE					W	L	PCT	GB	San Francisco at Houston, 9:05						
EAST DIVISION					Arizona	60	58	.508	—	— Arizona at Colorado, 10:05					
Tampa Bay	71	46	.607	—	L.A. Dodgers	59	59	.500	1	1 Milwaukee at San Diego, 11:05					
Boston	69	51	.575	3½	Colorado	53	67	.442	8	8 Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers, 11:10					
N.Y. Yankees	63	56	.529	9	San Francisco	50	67	.427	9½	AL BATTING LEADERS					
Toronto	61	59	.508	11½	San Diego	46	72	.390	14	Name, team	AB	R	H	AVG	
Baltimore	56	62	.475	15½	YESTERDAY'S RESULTS					Damon NYY	394	64	127	.322	
CENTRAL DIVISION					AMERICAN LEAGUE					Kinsler Tex	492	97	157	.319	
Chicago Sox	66	52	.559	—	Toronto 6 Detroit 4					Bradley Tex	307	60	98	.319	
Minnesota	66	52	.559	—	Boston 19 Texas 17					Ordonez Det	399	53	127	.318	
Detroit	58	61	.487	8½	Chicago White Sox 9 Kansas City 0					Mauer Min	374	69	118	.316	
Cleveland	54	64	.458	12	Cleveland 7 Baltimore 5					NL BATTING LEADERS					
Kansas City	54	65	.454	12½	N.Y. Yankees at Minnesota					Name, team	AB	R	H	AVG	
WEST DIVISION					Tampa Bay at Oakland					Jones Atl	327	63	121	.370	
L.A. Angels	74	43	.632	—	Seattle at L.A. Angels					Holliday Col	400	82	139	.347	
Texas	61	59	.508	14½	NATIONAL LEAGUE					Pujols STL	377	71	131	.347	
Oakland	54	63	.462	20	Cincinnati 5 Pittsburgh 1					Berkman Hou	413	93	137	.332	
Seattle	45	73	.381	29½	N.Y. Mets 4 Washington 3					Theriot CHC	430	62	135	.314	
NATIONAL LEAGUE					Chicago Cubs at Atlanta (ppd.)					CFL					
EAST DIVISION					St. Louis at Florida					EAST DIVISION					
Philadelphia	64	54	.542	—	San Francisco at Houston					W	L	T	PTS		
N.Y. Mets	63	56	.529	1½	Arizona at Colorado					Montreal	4	3	0	8	
Florida	62	57	.521	2½	Milwaukee at San Diego					Toronto	3	4	0	6	
Atlanta	55	63	.466	9	Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers					Hamilton	2	5	0	4	
Washington	44	76	.367	21	TODAY'S GAMES					Winnipeg	1	6	0	2	
CENTRAL DIVISION					AMERICAN LEAGUE					WEST DIVISION					
Chicago Cubs	71	47	.602	—	N.Y. Yankees at Minnesota, 2:10					W	L	T	PTS		
Milwaukee	68	51	.571	3½	Texas at Detroit, 8:05					Saskatchewan	6	1	0	12	
St. Louis	66	55	.545	6½	Toronto at Boston, 8:05					Edmonton	4	3	0	8	
Houston	59	59	.500	12	Baltimore at Cleveland, 8:05					Calgary	4	3	0	8	
Pittsburgh	54	65	.454	17½	Kansas City at Chicago Sox, 9:11					B.C.	4	3	0	8	
Cincinnati	53	67	.442	19	Tampa Bay at Oakland, 11:05					WEEK 8					
					Seattle at L.A. Angels, 11:05					TOMORROW'S GAME					
					NATIONAL LEAGUE					Hamilton at Winnipeg, 9					
					Chicago Cubs at Atlanta, 1:10					FRIDAY'S GAME					
					Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 8:05					Montreal at Toronto, 8:30					
					Chicago Cubs at Tampa Bay, 8:10										
					N.Y. Mets at Washington, 8:10										

Dunbrack aiming for perfection

SOCCER The Halifax Dunbrack Bremner's will look to move one step closer to perfection today when they play Valley Kings Arms at Acadia Turf. Halifax Dunbrack is in first place in the Nova Scotia Soccer League Men's Premiership with a 16-0 record.

After today's game — a makeup game from a July 13 postponement — Halifax Dunbrack will play Highland Floors Plus tomorrow in Truro and then end their season against Cape Breton United on Sunday.

METRO HALIFAX

Sports in brief

FOOTBALL Halifax is getting set to host the first annual maritime Football League All Star Game this Saturday. The game features the best of the West — the five senior men's teams in New Brunswick — playing the best of the East, made up of three teams from Nova Scotia and one team from Prince Edward Island. The game will take place this Saturday at 2:30 p.m. at the Wanderers Grounds. A reception follows at 7:30 at Mount Saint Vincent University.

METRO HALIFAX

Travel



On the fly

"Glamour" camping destination Clayoquot Wilderness Resort in B.C. is offering a ladies' fly fishing weekend from Sept. 18 to 21. Guests will rough it in white canvas tents filled with Persian rugs, antiques, and four poster beds covered with fluffy duvets — and dress in "wilderness chic apparel" that will put them at the height of fly fishing fashion.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

TRAVELDESK@METRONews.ca

Kataragama Festival is Sri Lanka's celebration of God

Hindu, Buddhist and Muslim pilgrims come to worship



A scene from the Kataragama Festival, a two week-long event in Sri Lanka that sees an influx of some 100,000 pilgrims.

TheTravelJunkie

Julia Dimon

thetraveljunkie.ca

The air smells of kerosene and jasmine flower. Young men crack whips as thick as cobras, while others skillfully twirl fire, leaving circular trails of light. There is rhythmic drumming and tribal dancing. It's what I imagine Burning Man Festival to be, except drugs and drinking are replaced by devotion to deities.

This is Kataragama Festival, a two week-long holy event that sees the arrival of some 100,000 Hindu, Buddhist and Muslim pilgrims. Devotees, many of whom have travelled for weeks to get to this auspicious city, have come to worship and perform acts

This holy shrine and popular pilgrim centre is humanity at its finest.

of penance and self-mortification. Some swing from hooks piercing their bodies while others walk on fire to show their devotion to God.

The festival entrance has a carnival-type atmosphere, with vendors selling stuffed animals, fruit offerings, plastic trinkets and sweets.

Walking through the fairgrounds, I'm happy to see that security is heightened with checkpoints and police searching baggage — as the civil war between the separatist Tamils and the Sri Lankan government continues, you can't be too careful.

Past the checkpoints, people have gathered, eagerly watching the procession of elephants down a path illuminated by beads of light. Dressed in a red rhinestone cloak, one ele-

phant looks like a Mexican luchador wrestler.

This holy shrine and popular pilgrim centre is humanity at its finest. On the fringes of the main action, I see the bodies of passed out pilgrims strewn all over the ground.

Some are cooking their dinner by small smouldering fire (a scene that's becoming increasingly more common with the rise in gas prices) while others are gently rocking their babies to sleep.

Trying to find a spot to watch the parade, I make my way through the maze. Every step is carefully calculated and I'm wary of stepping on little hands and feet. Though many have been waiting for hours for their spots, all are welcoming as I cozy my

way up to the front.

Seated on the sandy floor, a woman offers me a piece of her tarp to sit on. Here, people are very generous to foreigners. I'm offered oranges, water and lots of smiles.

I can feel all eyes on me. Here, I'm partly a movie star and partly a sideshow freak. Mothers holding infants point at me, raising their voices and eyebrows as if to say, "Look at that. Isn't that girl amusing?"

While some might feel self-conscious, I sort of like being "the other." I get off on being the outsider. In a crowd of thousands, I feel strangely satisfied that there are only a handful of foreigners.

This is how a travel writer knows she's in the right spot — when the tourists are gone, there are no fanny-pack wearers from Florida and not a McDonald's in sight.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN, and editor of thetraveljunkie.ca.

Wild rides

For travellers looking for modes of transport with a difference, travel site Virtual-Tourist.com has compiled a list of wild rides:

1 Ostrich rides, Nairobi, Kenya: Although elephant rides are the first thing most people think of when weighing transportation options in Kenya, the ostrich is not to be ruled out. The animal equivalent of a unicycle may take a few tries before novice riders find their balance.

2 Balloon rides, Goreme, Turkey: You'll have to get

up at the crack of dawn, but most who try it agree that there's no better way to watch the sun come up and take in Goreme's ancient and breathtaking landscape.

3 Ox-cart rides, Nepal: For short stretches, riding an ox-cart is a great experience. It'll take you through Nepal's rugged, rural terrain, but also on a trip back in time.

4 Zorb riding, Rotorua, New Zealand: It may look tame, but one spin down a hill in a Zorb, or giant inflatable ball, and you'll see this is one serious adrenalin rush.

REUTERS

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The Queen Eliška Festival, held Sept. 5-6 2008, in Hradec Králové, Czech Republic, will include countless knights, musicians, magicians, falconers, swordsmen, stall keepers and actors; calendariumregina.cz. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Helsinki's hidden delights

There's plenty to uncover in Finland's compact capital

PIA SIEVINEN

Metro World News



With its combination of historic town centre, sea-side location and trendy design and music scene, Finland's compact capital is the perfect spot for a city break.

Where to stay

Omenahotel: This new budget hotel is completely automated: There is no reception or staff in the hotel: all reservations are made online, and you use a door code instead of a key to get into your small but smart room. Located right in the centre of town, near the shops, bars, restaurants and cafés. Eerikinkatu 24, 00100 Helsinki, omena.com.

Hotel Klaus K: This former business hotel has been transformed into a hip, deluxe Scandinavian hot spot with its own restaurants, bar, club and luxury day spa. Room categories — from Mystical and Passion to Desire and Envy — are inspired by the Finnish epic Kalevala. Bulevardi 2, 00120 Helsinki, klauskhotel.com.

What to see

The Helsinki Cathedral and Senate Square: The ideal starting point for a walking tour of the city. At the heart of the historical centre, Senate Square is a fantastic example of Empire style, with the Lutheran Cathedral, monument to Tsar Alexander II, the senate and university buildings. Corner of the Aleksanterinkatu and Unioninkatu, 00100 Helsinki, senaatintori.fi.

Suomenlinna: This 18th-century, UNESCO-listed sea fortress built on the is-



Left, newly-opened bar Nolla attracts young-at-heart fashion, music, media and advertising types, who come for the beer, homemade food and DJs. Right, the reception at Hotel Klaus K, a hot spot with its own restaurants, bar, club and luxury day spa.

lands just off Helsinki is actually a suburb. More than 850 people live in the renovated ramparts and barracks.

For visitors, it's an attractive summertime picnic spot. There is a regular ferry boat service to Suomenlinna from the Market Square, 6 a.m. to 2:20 a.m., all year round, suomenlinna.fi.

Where to shop

Fashion
Helsinki 10: Local designers' collections as well as other Scandinavian and international fashion brands like Acne Jeans, Cheap Monday, Malene Birger and Martin Margiela meet in the store that reminds us of Colette in Paris. Eerikinkatu 3, 00100 Helsinki, helsinki10.fi.

Designer souvenirs

Marimekko: Established in 1951, Marimekko is the leading Finnish textile and clothing design company. This national treasure is known for colourful prints and simple modern design. Among the most interesting young designers is Samu-Jussi Koski. Pohjoisesplanadi 2 and 31, 00100 Helsinki, marimekko.fi.

Where to eat

Traditional
Restaurant Kosmos: For more than 80 years, Kosmos has attracted a mix of artists and politicians with its congenial atmosphere and its traditional dishes made of fresh local ingredients: reindeer, fish and meat, vegetables, mushrooms and blinis. Classics include steak tartare à la



Kosmos, vorschmack and cloudberry for dessert. Kalevankatu 3, 00100 Helsinki, ravintolakosmos.fi.

Top notch

Restaurant Savoy: At the very top of Helsinki's restaurant scene since the 1930s, with an interior designed by Finnish architect Alvar Aalto. Eteläesplanadi 14, 00130 Helsinki, royalravintolat.com/savoy.

For food lovers

The Old Market Hall: For the last century this bustling indoor market is a food-lovers' destination with specialist stalls selling fish, meat, cheese, coffee, bread and pastries. Have lunch in a café or the sushi restaurant, or take away a snack of traditional small

salmon sandwiches, *wanh akauppahalli.fi*.

Where to drink:

Nolla: This newly-opened bar is a sister of the popular Bar Erottaja where young-at-heart fashion, music, media, advertising and art people go for beers, homemade food and DJs playing live. Fredrikinkatu 56, 00100 Helsinki. Wed. to Sat., noon to 3 a.m., Sun. to Tue., noon to 2 a.m..

Bali-Hai: An easygoing bar and restaurant in the trendy Punavuori area, named after the mythical island. Popular with a creative crowd. Iso Rooverinkatu 35, 00120 Helsinki. Mon. to Fri., 11 a.m. to midnight; Sat. to Sun. noon to midnight, tinyurl.com/24hysx.

Where to go clubbing

Den Kungliga Klubben: This intense club with four floors hosts a lively 20-something crowd and the hottest club DJs. The dress code is informal, so jeans and T-shirts are fine. Mannerheimintie 6 A, 3rd floor, 00100 Helsinki. Wed. to Sat., 9 p.m. to 4 a.m., denkungliga.com.

Mecca: Fashionable nightclub in the Palace Kamp complex of luxury waterfront restaurants and hotels. The venue is relaxed, with its 30-something city crowd dressing up at the weekend. Korkeavuorenkatu, 00100 Helsinki. Mon. to Tue., 4 p.m. to midnight, Wed. to Thu., 4 p.m. to 2 a.m., Fri. to Sat., 4 p.m. to 4 a.m., palacecamp.fi/ravintolat/mecca.



Airfares

Toronto	\$99
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San Francisco	\$388
	+ \$113 taxes & fees
Buenos Aires	\$849
	+ \$247 taxes & fees
Bangkok	\$1268
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Holidays

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Las Vegas	\$539
	+ \$219 taxes & fees
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Holidays

Punta Cana	\$699
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Mediterranean Cruise	\$939
	+ \$212 taxes & fees
INCLUDES 12 nights aboard NCL's Norwegian Jade. Sail from Istanbul to Barcelona and visit Izmir, Athens/Piraeus, Dubrovnik, Venice (overnight), Naples and Civitavecchia/Rome.	

Holidays

Thailand Bangkok & Phuket	\$1869
	+ \$728 taxes & fees
INCLUDES roundtrip international and domestic airfare, 7 nights 4-star accom in Phuket just steps from the beach and 3 nights 3.5-star accom in Bangkok with direct access from the hotel to the sky train and just minutes from the MBK Centre and Sukhumvit area. ADD Phuket jungle elephant trek from \$36.	

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This B-movie is A1

Evil Dead 2 has topped a new U.S. magazine poll to find the greatest B-Movie of all time. The cult zombie film claimed 31 per cent of the Paste reader vote to beat Plan 9 From Outer Space and Killer Klowns From Outer Space. IMDB.COM

15

Entertainment

**Ange over Tom**

The thriller Edwin A. Salt, originally intended as a vehicle for Tom Cruise, is being rewritten for Angelina Jolie. Jolie is reportedly close to a deal regarding the movie. [E! NEWS ONLINE](http://E!NEWS.ONLINE)

Love in a dangerous time

Theatre co-op explores making a human connection in the cold, cruel big city

DEAN LISK
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It was a challenge juggling everyone's schedules and busy lives, but that was easy compared to finding a rifle to use in the play.

"It was the most difficult thing, but it is a crucial prop in the show," producer Catherine MacKeigan said. "But, because of firearm regulations, it is really hard to get one on stage. We found one, but it was a feat."

MacKeigan is a member of Open Concept Co-op, a group of Halifax-based actors and theatre lovers who are producing Canadian playwright Brad Fraser's *Unidentified Human Remains* and the *True Nature Of Love*.

The play, running tomorrow through Sunday, is about a group of people trying to learn the meaning of love.

It is set against the backdrop of a serial killer threatening the city.

Annie Valentina is directing the play. She says the story is very cinematic in



Appearing in Brad Fraser's play *Unidentified Human Remains* and the *True Nature Of Love* are Guy Germain, from left, Stephanie McNair, Margaret Legere, Ian Mullan, Steven Bourque, Lisa MacCormack and Josh Kogon. The play is presented by Open Concept Co-Op.

style, with different scenes taking place at the same time on stage.

"The journey of the characters are so interwoven, it creates a very contemporary and edgy narrative," she said.

"The characters are certainly people you can identify with in Halifax today. There are very broad, very human, very vulnerable,"

MacKeigan said Open Concept Co-op is not a theatre company, but a group

"The characters are certainly people you can identify with in Halifax today"

Annie Valentina

of dedicated individuals who have come together to put on the play.

"Everyone has something to bring, more than just acting on the stage,"

said MacKeigan, who is also stage managing. The group came together earlier this year in hopes of working on a project together.

MacKeigan said the idea to perform Fraser's play was first brought to the co-operative by actor Ian Mullan.

He has wanted to bring the script to the stage for some time.

"He felt very attached to it, and immediately after

reading it, we were all, 'Yes,'" said MacKeigan. "It is a very good script, very timeless. When it first came out there was a lot of controversy about it."

MacKeigan said it was easy to get Fraser to agree to let the play be performed. He also provided them with a revised version of his script.

"It was really great to have the playwright backing this so strongly," MacKeigan said.

If you go

- **What:** Open Concept Co-op presents *Unidentified Human Remains* and *The True Nature Of Love*.
- **Where:** The Bus Stop Theatre
- **When:** Tomorrow through Sunday, 8 p.m. Additional show Sunday at 4 p.m.
- **Tickets:** \$10. Available in advance at Venus Envy. Remaining tickets will be sold at the door.

Busker takes balls-y approach to record book

DEAN LISK
dean.lisk@metronews.ca



The magic in his show, said Victor Rubilar, is how he can take an ordinary object — in this case a soccer ball — and turn it into the extraordinary.

"I like the fact I use an everyday object," said the freestyle soccer juggler. He is among the performers taking part in the Halifax International Busker Festival this week.

"People can relate to it. Everybody knows how much a football weighs, everybody knows how hard the tricks are. They may not have tried them, but they have tried to kick a football."

A native of Buenos Aires, Rubilar holds four soccer ball-related world records.

He has them for juggling five soccer balls at once,

New records?

- Rubilar hopes to break his world record today at the Aliant stage at Sackville Landing at 6 p.m. If rain dampens his attempt, he'll try Friday at 2 p.m. at the same location.

for spinning a ball on his forehead for nearly 20 seconds, and travelling 298 metres while balancing a soccer ball on his forehead.

He is also the record holder for being able to balance a ball on the left side of his head, and then tilt his head so the ball rests on the right side. He did it 43 times.

During the busker festival, Rubilar hopes to top that trick by repeating the movement 60 times, and also walk 300 metres while balancing a soccer

ball on his head.

While Rubilar grew up playing soccer, he never performed tricks with the balls.

"I started doing magic, but everyone I knew was doing the same tricks, so I wanted to find something new," he said.

He saw a guy doing stuff with a football and made a realization.

"I thought, 'No one is doing any real tricks with this stuff.'"

He started working with soccer balls, and later attended the National School of Contemporary Arts — called Circor — where he learned to take his act to the next level. His show utilizes everything he has learned.

"It is not only the physical skills, it is also the performance skills," Rubilar said.



Victor Rubilar hopes to better two of his four soccer ball-related world records in Halifax this week.

In brief

DANCE The Dikita Women's Festival on Dance will take place on the Aug. 22 weekend. A women's only festival, participants can learn from Maritime Centre of African Dance instructors. E-mail afrikandance2005@yahoo.ca.

CONCERT A violinist and pianist will perform at St. James Anglican Church in Mahone Bay on Aug. 22. Yi-Jia Susanne Hou and Elaine Hou will perform works by Mozart and others. Tickets are \$15, free for children under 12. Call 531-2248.

THEATRE The Theatre Arts Guild is holding auditions for its holiday pantomime show on Sept. 7, and Sept. 9. Contact Cheryl Theriault at 492-0838.

PARTY The Cole Harbour Heritage Farm is holding its annual garden party Sunday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Rhapsody Quintet will perform and tea and refreshments will be served. **METRO HALIFAX**

Specs appeal Stars such as Ewan McGregor, left, and Harry Potter actor Robbie Coltrane are giving their glasses to the highest bidder to benefit the charity Sightsavers. All pairs of glasses will be listed on eBay on Friday and will be available to bid for until the following weekend. **IMDb.COM**

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Stiller shines back in director's chair

Tropic Thunder

Director: Ben Stiller

Stars: Ben Stiller, Jack Black, Robert Downey Jr.

Classification: 14A

Rating: ●●●●1/2

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada



REVIEW War! What is it good for? As it turns out, it's not too bad for Ben Stiller who returns to the writer-director's chair for the first time since his box office hit, Zoolander.

In *Tropic Thunder*, Stiller leads the all-star cast of Jack Black, Robert Downey Jr. and even Tom Cruise (in a surprising

role that's sure to relieve those who thought he'd all but beamed up to Planet Thetan) in this spoof of Hollywood egos and icons.

Stiller plays Tugg Speedman, a fleeting action star leading the cast of a fictional war film being shot in Southeast Asia.

After the movie goes over budget, the actors are sent into the jungle to capture "real fear in their eyes".

Instead, the gang loses their director, get lost themselves and fall prey to real terrorists.

The twist: They're convinced it's all part of the movie. It's a great premise and one that doesn't



Robert Downey Jr., Ben Stiller and Jay Baruchel are actors shooting a war movie who get caught up in a real battle in the action comedy *Tropic Thunder*.

let down with its cast.

Downey Jr. steals the show playing method-actor Kirk Lazarus (Downey Jr.) who has undergone a procedure to darken his skin in order to be "a dude playing a dude disguised as another dude".

Perhaps more surprising is the supporting cast. That Stiller gave such weight to young stars Jay Baruchel and

Brandon Jackson is credit to his maturity as a filmmaker.

Where a stellar cast take hilarious self-deprecating stabs at moviemaking and the false egos of stardom, Stiller, however, tends to mug blankly to camera as he mostly did in *Zoolander*.

Still, with satisfying cameo appearances,

broad but funny gags and a great sense of timing, *Tropic Thunder* may be the summer's last kick at solid box-office comedy.

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Check movie showtimes, trailers and reviews at metronews.ca/movies

Spelling out of 90210 spinoff

TELEVISION Actress Tori Spelling has pulled out of the forthcoming Beverly Hills, 90210 spinoff amid rumours of a salary row, imdb.com reports.

Spelling's representative has confirmed the actress' decision, telling us-magazine.com, "At this time, there are no plans for Tori to appear in the 90210 spinoff."

Lynne Spears book coming

PEOPLE Lynne Spears' much-discussed new book is due out Sept. 16 – but the cover was unveiled earlier this week, People.com reports. Through the Storm: A Real Story of Fame and Family in a Tabloid World is a memoir, describing Spears' "story of what it was like being a mom and raising two very famous people," a spokesman for publisher Thomas Nelson said in June.

The tome will not be a parenting guide, as many had expected. Spears' memoir was intended for publication earlier, but was put on hold after daughter Jamie Lynn got pregnant.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Dartmouth North Has Talent

Open to all residents in Dartmouth North!

Children Under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Auditions: August 13th and 20th, 7 pm to 9 pm

Show starts August 27th!

Location: Dartmouth North Community Center
134 Pinecrest Drive

Info: Julie at 405.2426 | Sponsored by: TNT Fitness, Z103.5, Award East Squirrel Trophies and supported by United Way.

Newsweek
DAVID ANSEN
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...GIDDILY ENTERTAINING, WICKEDLY SMART
AND CINEMATICALLY SATISFYING."

BEN STILLER
TROPIC THUNDER

RED 14
VIOLENCE

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Bound for Broadway

Weeds star Mary-Louise Parker already treads on dangerous territory as the pot-growing Nancy Botwin. This winter, she'll be taking on another edgy role as Hedda Gabler in a Broadway revival of Henrik Ibsen's classic play. **EW.COM**

'70s inspire more shows

RAG AND BONE BOUTIQUE: Hollywood is the kind of place where everyone has an assistant but none of them can come up with more than one good idea.

This year it's the '70s; a generation of producers and executives who spent their formative years vegging out in front of their parents' console television set, changing channels only occasionally as the remote was still an expensive accessory, have ascended into positions of power, and are determined to make the next year's worth of shows recreate the look and feel Nixon/Ford presidencies.

You almost get the feeling they're praying for a gas shortage and runaway inflation just to get the mood right. Certainly Russia seems to be doing its bit to recreate the bleary-eyed plateau phase of the Cold War — after the invasion of Georgia, can *SALT III* talks be far behind?

Flush with the critical success of *Mad Men* and *Breaking Bad*, AMC has given the green light to a TV

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis

rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

version of Francis Ford Coppola's 1974 film *The Conversation*, a project that has obsessed producer Tony Krantz for years — he's tried to sell versions of the project three times before, most recently to ABC, just two years ago, with a version set in the present day.

The AMC series will retain the film's period setting, and Krantz explained to *Variety* that it "gives us an opportunity to look back at the 1970s through the filter of 2009... The issues of privacy and individuality, and issues of spying and listening, are as relevant now as they've ever been. This is the perfect vehicle to tell those stories."

By the time it gets to air, it's unlikely that ABC's



The TV show *Mad Men* has been a critical success.

fraught remake of BBC's *Life On Mars* will be set in New York in the '70s — after almost relentless changes to the producers, cast and setting, the show that makes it to the air this fall might take place on a space station. The leader of the '70s revival pack so far,

though, seems to be CBS, who have two revivals of '70s series in the works.

In the San Francisco Chronicle, TV critic Tim Goodman worried that the network's new version of *Streets Of San Francisco* won't be able to afford to shoot anything but exteri-

ors in the city by the bay, as "would be completely pointless and unwatchable unless it was shot here." Tell that to anyone living in Toronto or Vancouver, who've had their streets stand in for everywhere from New York in the '30s to *Battlestar Galactica*'s alien worlds.

CBS is also reviving *Hawaii 5-0*, updating the show to the present day with a team of top cops headed up by Steve McGarrett's son, Chris. Executive producer Ed Bernero told the *Hollywood Reporter* that he's trying to keep as much of the original show as possible, and fully intends to preserve the catchy theme song in some form as well as the phrase "Book'em, Dano." The executives behind this egregious trend would be having second thoughts about this if they knew that the terrible endgame involves a new version of *Man From Atlantis*.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Emmys to honour TV's best lines

AWARDS Some of television's most memorable lines will be celebrated at the 60th annual Primetime Emmy Awards on Sept. 21.

The lines, which may include *Good night, John* from *Boy or Live* long and prosper, will be recited by such TV stars as Alec Baldwin, William Baldwin, Ricky Gervais, Kelsey Grammer, Heidi Klum, Denis Leary, Helen Mirren, Jeremy Piven, Doris Roberts, William Shatner, James Spader and Donald Trump during the ceremony, which airs from 8-11 p.m. ET on ABC.

Abrams' new film all shook up

IN THE WORKS J.J. Abrams wants to make the earth move for you.

The producer of *Lost* and director of the upcoming *Star Trek* movie is working with David Seltzer, the screenwriter of the original *Omen*, on a disaster flick involving an earthquake. The untitled Universal project is not intended to be a remake of the studio's 1974 movie *Earthquake*. **REUTERS**

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HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
8/13/08	31	31	ABC	News (N)	ABC World News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Wife Swap	Wife Swap	Superhero Movie	Primetime Live	
	7	7	ASN	Twice in a Lifetime	Wheel-For-Tune	Jeopardy!				Sarah Connor Chronicles	Famous	
	11	11	CBC	XXIX Summer Olympics (HDTV) (Live)								
	2	2	CBC-F	XXIX Jeux Olympiques	Chine	La Zone olympique (N) (SC)				Le Téléjournal	XXIX Jeux Olympiques	
	32	32	CBS	News (N)	Evening News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Greatest American Dog		Criminal Minds (HDTV)	CSI: NY	
	69	69	CFMT	TVA 18 heures	Marché	Rumeurs - Jean-Michel Anctil				La Grande Évasion (HDTV)	TVA 22 heures	
	6	6	CHIF	Entertainment	ET Canada	Crime Stories		Bones (HDTV PA)		NCIS "Grace Period"	News (N)	
	9	9	CJCH	TMZ (N)	Jeopardy!	CSI: NY "DOA for a Day"		Law & Order		Criminal Minds (HDTV)	News (N)	
	10	10	ELTV	EastLink Mag.	Some Horse	Fuelin' Around	Build It (N)	Democracy 250: Mi'maq		EastLink Television		
	36	36	FOX	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	TwoHalf Men	TwoHalf Men	Bones (HDTV PA)		Sarah Connor Chronicles	Fox First	
news	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Olympic Zone	XXIX Summer Olympics (HDTV) (Live)				
	29	29	NW	BBC World	Business	CBC News	Beijing Today	The Hour (N)		CBC News: The National	National	
	4	4	PBS-B	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Greater Boston	Ask This Old		Click & Click's Wrench Turns		Nova scienceNOW (N)	Secrets-Dead	
	35	35	PBS-D	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Business Rpt.	BBC World		Do You Speak American?		Do You Speak American?	Do You Speak	
	68	68	TOS	Les Simpson	L'été est Flash	La Voix de l'innocence (2004, Drame)	Mariska Hargitay			Men in Trees: leçons	110 pour cent	
	23	96	BNN	Stars & Dogs	Business News		Market Call	Workopolis TV	GetConnected	Taking Stock	Market Call	
	18	18	CNN	(5) The Situation Room		Lou Dobbs Tonight		CNN Election Center	Larry King Live	Cooper 360		
	54	54	GOLF	Highway 18		Champions Mid-Season		Inside PGA	Golf Central	19th Hole	The Approach	Top 10
	52	52	RSE	Prime Time Sports		MLB Baseball Toronto Blue Jays at Detroit Tigers. From Comerica Park in Detroit.						Sportsman Con.
	55	55	SCOR	Drive This	Game On	RaceNight						Score Tonight
sports	45	45	SPD	Unique Whips		Pinks	Pass Time (N)	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks Outtakes	Wrecked
	53	53	TSN	SportsCentre	XXIX Summer Olympics (HDTV) (Live)							
	43	43	FAM	Zoe 101	Life Derek	That's-Raven	Smart Guy	Zack & Cody	Naturally Sadie	Han, Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School
	44	44	TOON	Eleen	Johnny Test	George-Jungle	Tom & Jerry	Tom and Jerry	Eleen	Total Drama	Futurama	Applesseed
	26	26	TREE	Fifi-Floretots	Backyardigans	Wonder Pels	Night Grdn	The Wiggles	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch
	27	27	YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Malcolm-Mid.	Prank Patrol	ReBoot "Daemon Rising"	Daemon's Infection.			Falcon Beach
	16	16	A&E	Cold Case Files (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Crisis Angel
	70	70	APTN	First Talk	News	Arctic Son Father and son are reunited.		renegade:press		Northern Exposure		Wolf Lake
	50	50	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live (N)		Hell Date	Access	Baldwin Hills	New Jack City (1991, Crime Drama), Ice-T			
	37	37	BRVO	Street Legal (Part 2 of 2)		Literature Alive	Arts & Minds	Wingfield	Camera	Mad Men	Entourage	
family	97	97	CLT	Help TV "Collectables"		The West Wing		Paul Merton in China		Casanova's Love Letters	Traders	
	25	25	CMT	Tara Diaries	Living, Dream	CMT30 "Dauphin 2008"		Ult. Coyote Ugly Search		Reba	Hope & Faith	Home Improve.
	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Lewis Black
	153	153	COURT	Crime Files	72 Hours	The Investigators		The District		Declassified	Investigators	
	38	38	DISC	How It's Made	How It's Made	Daily Planet		Dirty Jobs		Sport Science (N)	Mayday	
	34	34	HGTV	Holmes-Homes	Holmes-Homes	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Property Shop	Big City Broker	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Flipping Out
	46	46	HIST	Disaster-Cent.	Masterminds	NCIS "Ravenous"		Cities of the Underworld		Cities of the Underworld		NCIS
	17	17	MM	Live at Much "Girlicious"		So You Think You Can Dance The final four perform.		So You Think You Can Dance		So You Think You Can Dance		
	19	19	MMM	Much, Profile	mmmtop10.com	Popagenda		Back In		Tip of Tongue	Tip of Tongue	Don't Forget
	201	201	M1	(6:15) The Invasion		Silk * (2007, Drama) Keira Knightley, Michael Pitt.				Borat: Cultural Learnings of America		
cable variety	48	23	23	OLN	Don't Forget Your Passport	Exploration	Videos	Ed's Up	Odyssey	The Rig	Dirbuster (N)	Word Travels
	51	51	PEACH	(Friends)	Seinfeld	Family Guy	Family Guy	G.I. Jane *** (1997, Drama) Demi Moore, Viggo Mortensen.				
	206	206	PIX	(6:45) Food of the Gods II		(8:15) Absolon * (2003, Science Fiction)				The Astronaut's Wife ** (1999)		
	67	67	RDI	RDI Pékin 2008	RDI en direct	RDI en direct	400 fois Qué	Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal	Chine	Le Téléjournal
	39	39	SHOW	Trailer Park	Billable Hours	ReGenesis "Sleepers"		Da Vinci's Inquest		Trailer Park	Rent-A-Goalie	Big Love
	40	40	SLICE	Skin Deep	Opening Soon	End of Leash	Til Debt-Part	X-Weighted		Work Out		Inside Hollywd.
	47	47	SPACE	Relic Hunter		Stargate SG-1		Star Trek: Voyager		Smallville "Veritas"		Supernatural
	14	14	SPICE	Star Wars-Phantom		CSI: Crime Scene Investgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Investgtn.		UFC Unleashed		Real Vice
	98	98	STAR	Making It	Star Treatment	Look-A-Like	Hollywood	TMZ (N)	Madonna	Celebrity Rehab With Dr. Drew		Elien Show
	21	21	TLC	What Not to Wear		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Duggar Family
cable variety	56	34	TROP	What Happen?	Vanity Insanity	TV Made, Do It	TV Made, Do It	ET Canada	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	20	20	TVS	Que-champion	Journal de Fr2	Toute une histoire		Qui m'aime me suive (2005, Comédie)		Paul		Vivre à vélo
	28	28	V	Side Effects		Murder, She Wrote		Chabbers	No Place Like	Jeeves and Wooster		Swedenborg:
	22	22	W	Shopping Bags	House	Will & Grace	Friends	Shopping Bags	Style by Jury	Three Fat Brides		Real Women
	251	251	WGN	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	TwoHalf Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model		Pussycat Dolls: Girlicious		WGN News

critics' corner

Appleseed

In this visually stunning anime, mercenary Deunan Knute gets caught up in defending the innocent from shadowy — and possibly nonhuman — enforcers. Kidnapped for her fighting skills by a secret organization, Knute is recruited to save society. But will she save it for the humans — or from them? 11 PM on TOON



Bones

Aww, Brennan (Emily Deschanel) has a baby! In "The Baby in the Bough," an infant lands in a tree after someone runs Mom off the road, killing her. As Brennan and the team try to identify their victim and figure out who wanted her dead, the baby bonds with her — although she's not the most careful of caretakers. 9 PM on CHIF, FOX

Criminal Minds

Keith Carradine won an Oscar for the song "I'm Easy" from the movie "Nashville," but if his character here had a theme song, it would be "I'm Sleazy." He plays a serial killer who's reputedly tortured and murdered more than 100 people. The BAU has tracked him down, and the cops want to haul him in, but Gideon (Mandy Patinkin) urges them to hold off; there's something the man's not telling them. 10 PM on CBS, CJCH

Celebrity Buzz

Fame can hurt dating, Carrie says

RELATIONSHIPS Although former American Idol sensation Carrie Underwood has become one of the country music's biggest stars, fame has its downside — especially when it comes to dating. People.com reports the singer as saying,

"You never really know why somebody wants to be around you, or if they do genuinely like you," Underwood, 25, tells Allure magazine in the September issue. "I wish everyone had a label on their forehead so you could automatically tell their intentions. Sometimes you just

wish that no one wanted anything from you."

Underwood recalls a time soon after her success on Idol when a guy who'd ignored her in college — clearly enamored by her newfound success — called saying that "he wanted to explain."

Fame hasn't helped create lasting relationships for her either. Earlier this year, Underwood split from Gossip Girl's Chace Crawford via text-messages. "We didn't have a fight. No one cheated," she clarifies. "It plain didn't work."

As for Dallas Cowboys QB Tony Romo, who now is dating Jessica Simpson, Underwood says she still hears from him sometimes — but doesn't always pick up the phone.

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GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Alanis reflects on aging

PEOPLE The effects of old age won't be a concern for Alanis Morissette, People.com reports.

Don't count on seeing the singer, who says she "notices new things" about her body every month, searching for a fountain of youth. Instead Morissette plans to embrace her body's transformation.

"I'm fascinated by aging and how a woman's body changes," Morissette, 34, tells Women's Health's September is-

sue. "I don't want to spend the next 50 years of my life trying to hide those changes. There's something very relaxing about watching it unfold instead of fighting it the whole way."

While she watches her body evolve, Morissette has stayed physically fit by adding triathlete to her resume.

"It was amazing to use my body as an instrument rather than as an ornament," Morissette says of the swim-run-bike competition.

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celebrity brief

Madonna eyes new adoption?

PEOPLE Madonna is reportedly looking to adopt a second child from Malawi, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The pop star wants to give a home to two-year-old girl Mercy James, whose mother died in childbirth, but the family of the child, who lives in an orphanage, have said they are "not interested" in the proposition.

Madonna's adoption of Malawian David Banda was finalized earlier this year.

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"This makes no sense at all..."

by Joe O'Neill

Paul Stanley and his wife are having a baby. This is pure demographics. The original KISS ARMY are all about 50 now. New recruits must be spawned! To the incubators! And how will Paul know the child is really his? When he sees that tell-tale black star over its right eye.

It's difficult to imagine why **Kylie Minogue** wants the lyrics of her cover version of Copacabana to be changed so that Lola becomes Kylie, given that the Lola in the song ends up as a drunken, insane, aged and decrepit figure. Oh, wait, I guess it does make sense.

Carrie Underwood says she wishes everyone had a label on their forehead so she could automatically tell their intentions. Interesting. It usually takes famous people nearly a decade to become that insane. I do appreciate her candor, though, because I like to know what plans our celebrity class has in store for us. Here's what I'd like my label to say: "I do not intend to purchase, or listen to, any Carrie Underwood music for as long as I live."

Scarlett Johansson is correct to deny she's **Woody Allen's** latest muse. She knows it doesn't work that way. First, Woody adopts you, then you become his muse, then he marries you. Then everybody shudders and throws up.

NEWSDESK@METRONWS.CA

celebrity brief

I'm not Woody's muse: Scarlett

MOVIES Scarlett Johansson denies she has become director Woody Allen's latest muse, imdb.com reports.

Allen admits the actress is the inspiration for his films. But Johansson insists they only work together to "have fun."

"I'm not his muse," she says. "Every single junket that we've done so far (for Vicky Cristina Barcelona), we always get the muse thing and we always say no, it's not that way."

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Song won't name Kylie

MUSIC Kylie Minogue is reportedly set to release a cover of Barry Manilow's hit Copacabana, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer, however, is said to have angered the lyricist Bruce Sussman by asking for the woman's name in the song to be changed from Lola to

Kylie.

Minogue is said to have wanted the lyric, "Her name was Lola, she was a showgirl" to be changed, but Sussman refused.

"Bruce was furious," a source told gossip website MSNBC. "He told Kylie, 'No way. Her name's Lola. Not Lola Minogue, not Kylie.'"

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Butting out freed Julianne

PEOPLE Actress Julianne Moore credits her decision to quit smoking for an emotional awakening, imdb.com reports.

Moore quit the habit 15 years ago.

"I began to see the most clearly," she tells Parade magazine.

"I was 31 or 32, and I quit smoking. I was so emotional. I had been so unhappy, and I realized that I had just been ... literally stuffing it back with those cigarettes in my mouth. I felt like I woke up suddenly," Moore adds.

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